A phosphorus-containing compound represented by the following formula (I), (II) or (III):

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$$(R)_{\overline{q}} \underbrace{Z^{1}}_{(A)_{\overline{r}}} \underbrace{(A)_{\overline{r}}_{\overline{r}} \underbrace{(Y^{1}_{\overline{q}})_{\overline{q}}^{0}}_{(Y^{2}_{\overline{q}})_{2-m}} \underbrace{(Y^{2}_{\overline{q}})_{m}}_{h} H}_{k}$$

$$(R) \frac{Z^{1}}{q} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} (A) & Q & Q^{2} & Q^{2}$$

$$(R)_{\overline{q}} \underbrace{Z^{1}}_{0} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}_{K}$$

$$(III)$$

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wherein Z^1 , Z^2 and Z^3 are the same or different, each representing a cycloalkane ring, a cycloalkene ring, a polycyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon ring or an aromatic hydrocarbon ring, in which these rings may have a substituent; R represents a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a carboxyl group, a halocarboxyl group, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkenyl group or an aryl group; A represents a polyvalent group corresponding to an alkane;

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 Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 are the same or different, each representing -O-, -S- or -NR 1 -

wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group;

k represents an integer of 1 to 6; m represents an integer of 0 to 2; n represents an integer of not less than 1; q represents an integer of 0 to 5; r represents 0 or 1; s represents an integer of 1 to 4; and

provided that when Z^1 is a cyclohexane ring, q is 0, and k is 1, factor r for A is 1; when Z^1 is a cyclohexane ring, q is 0, and k is 2 to 6, at least one of plural factors r for A is 1; and when Z^1 is a benzene ring and k is 1, the factor r for A is 1; when Z^1 is a benzene ring and k is 2 to 6, at least one of plural factors r for A is 1.

- 2. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein the rings Z^1 , Z^2 and Z^3 each is a dicyclic or tricyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon ring.
- 3. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein the ring Z^1 is a norbornane ring, an adamantane ring, a tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]decane ring, or a benzene ring, and the rings Z^2 and Z^3 each is an adamantane ring or a benzene ring.
- 4. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein R is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group in the formula (I).
- 5. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim $\underline{1}$, wherein each \underline{Y}^1 , \underline{Y}^2 and \underline{Y}^3 represents -0-.

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- 6. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein k is an integer of 1 or 2, n is 1, and q is an integer of 0 to 2.
- 7. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein a phosphorus-containing compound of the formula (I) is represented by the following formula (Ia):

wherein the Z^2 , Z^3 , R, Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , k, m, n and q have the same meanings as defined above.

- 8. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 7, wherein, in the formula (Ia), Z^2 and Z^3 are the same or different, each representing a benzene ring or an adamantane ring in which these rings may have a substituent; R is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 each is -O- or -NR¹-(wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group)); k is an integer of 2 to 4; n is an integer of 1 to 3; and q is an integer of 0 to 4.
- 9. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 7, wherein, in the formula (Ia), Z^2 and Z^3 are the same or different, each representing a benzene ring which may have a substituent; R is a C_{1-4} alkyl group; n is 1; and

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q is an integer of 0 to 2.

- 10. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 7, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ia) is an adamantylbis, tris or tetrakis-(diC_{6-10} aryl phosphate) or an adamantylbis, tris or tetrakis(diC_{6-10} aryl phosphoramide).
- 11. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 7, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ia) is adamantylbis(diphenylphosphate), dimethyladamantyl bis(diphenylphosphate), or adamantyltris(diphenyl phosphate).
- 12. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein a compound of the formula (I) is represented by the following formula (Ib):

$$(R)_{q} = \begin{pmatrix} Y^{1} - P - (Y^{2} - Z^{2}) \\ (Y^{3} - Z^{3}) \end{pmatrix}_{2-m} H \qquad (1b)$$

wherein the z^2 , z^3 , R, y^1 , y^2 , y^3 , m, n and q have the same meanings as defined above.

13. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 12, wherein, in the formula (Ib), Z^2 and Z^3 are the same or different, each representing a benzene ring or an adamantane ring in which these rings may have a substituent; R is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 are the same or different,

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each representing -O- or $-NR^1$ - wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; and q is an integer of 0 to 4.

- 14. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 12, wherein, in the formula (Ib), R is a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-4} alkyl group, or a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, and q is an integer of 0 to 2.
- 15. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 12, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ib) is an adamantyldiC₆₋₁₀arylphosphate or a diadamantyl C_{6-10} arylphosphate.
- 16. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 12, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ib) is adamantyldiphenylphosphate, dimethyladamantyl diphenylphosphate, or bis(adamantyl)phenylphosphate.
- 17. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein a compound of the formula (I) is represented by the following formula (Ic):

$$H = \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} Z^{2} \\ \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{q} Y^{1} \xrightarrow{g} 10 \xrightarrow{g}$$

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wherein the Z^2 , Z^3 , Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , m, n and q have the same meanings as defined above.

18. A phosphorus-containing compound according to

claim 17, wherein, in the formula (Ic), Z^2 and Z^3 each is a benzene ring which may have a substituent; R is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; and Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 are -O-.

- 19. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 17, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ic) is $bis[(diC_{6-10}arylphosphoroxy)methyl]tricyclo$ [5.2.1.0^{2,6}]decane.
- 20. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 17, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ic) is bis[(diphenylphosphoroxy)methyl]tricyclo
 [5.2.1.0^{2,6}]decane.
- 21. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 17, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ic) is (4R,8S)-bis(diphenylphosphoroxymethyl)-(1R,2S,6R,7R)-tricyclo[5.2.1.0^{2,6}]decane.
- 22. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein a compound of the formula (I) is represented by the following formula (Id):

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$$H = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} (Z^2 - Y^2)_{m} & P - Y^1 \\ \hline \\ (Z^3 - Y^3)_{2-m} & (R)_{q} & Y^1 - P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^2)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^2 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} & P - (Y^3 - Z^3)_{2-m} \\ \hline \\ (X^3 - Z^3)_{$$

wherein the Z^2 , Z^3 , R, Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , m, n and q have the same meanings as defined above.

23. A phosphorus-containing compound according to

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claim 22, wherein, in the formula (Id), Z^2 and Z^3 each is a benzene ring which may have a substituent; and Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 are -0-.

- 24. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 22, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Id) is xylyleneglycolbis(diphenylphosphate).
- 25. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein a compound of the formula (I) or (II) is represented by the following formula (Ie) or (IIa):

$$(R)_{q} = \begin{bmatrix} (CH_{2})_{v} & & & \\ (CH_{2})_{v} & & & \\ (H_{2})_{q} & & & \\ (H_{3} - (Z^{3})_{2-m})_{n} & &$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
\hline
(CH_2)_v & \hline
(A)_r & Y^1 & P & Y^2 & Z^2 \\
\hline
(R)_q & & & & & \\
\end{array}$$
(IIa)

wherein the following structure

means a single bond or a double bond, v is an integer of 0 to 2; and z^2 , z^3 , R, A, Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , m, n, q, r and s have the same meanings as defined above.

26. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 25, wherein, in the formula (Ie) or (IIa), Z^2 and Z^3 each is a benzene ring which may have a substituent; R is

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a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent, or an alkenyl group which may have a substituent; and Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 are -0-.

- 27. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 25, wherein, in the formula (Ie), n is 1; q is an integer of 0 to 2; r is 1; and s is an integer of 1 to 2.
- 28. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 25, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ie) or (IIa) is bis(diphenylphosphoroxy)norbornane; bis(diphenylphosphoroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)norbornane; bis(diphenylphosphoroxy)-4-C₂₋₄alkenylcyclohexane; (diphenylphosphoroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)cyclohexene; mono, di or tri-C₁₋₄alkyl(diphenylphosphoroxyC₁₋₄alkyl)cyclohexyl phosphate; or bis(diphenylphosphoroxy)-[bis(diphenyl phosphoroxy)C₁₋₄alkyl]cyclohexane.
- 29. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 25, wherein a compound represented by the formula (Ie) or (IIa) is 2,3-bis(diphenylphosphoroxy)norbornane, 2,5-bis(diphenylphosphoroxymethyl)norbornane, 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphoroxy)-4-vinylcyclohexane, 1-diphenyl phosphoroxymethyl-3-cyclohexene, 3,3,-dimethyl-5-(diphenylphosphoroxymethyl)cyclohexyl phosphate, or 1,2-bis(diphenylphosphoroxy)-4-[1',2'-bis(diphenyl phosphoroxy)ethyl]cyclohexane.
- 30. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 25, wherein a compound of the formula (Ie) is

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represented by the following formula (If):

$$(R)_{q} = \begin{pmatrix} V^{1} & V^{2} &$$

wherein z^2 , z^3 , R, y^1 , y^2 , y^3 , m, n and q have the same meanings as defined above.

- 31. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 30, wherein, in the formula (If), Z^2 and Z^3 are the same or different, each representing a benzene ring; R is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group; and Y^1 , Y^2 and Y^3 are the same or different, each representing -O- or -NR 1 -.
- 32. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 30, wherein a compound represented by the formula (If) is 1-diphenylphosphoroxy-3-diphenylphosphoroxy methylcyclohexane or 3,3,-dimethyl-5-(diphenyl phosphoroxymethyl)cyclohexylphosophate.
- 33. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 1, wherein a compound of the formula (III) is represented by the following formula (IIIa):

wherein R, q and k have the same meanings as defined above.

34. A phosphorus-containing compound according to claim 33, wherein, in the formula (IIIa), R is a carboxyl group, a halocarboxyl group, or a C_{1-4} alkyl group.

35. A process for producing a phosphorus-containing compound represented by the formula (I), (II) or (III) recited in claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the following formula (I-1), (II-1) or (III-1) with a compound represented by the following formula (I-2), (II-2) or (III-2):

$$(R)_{\overline{q}} \underbrace{Z^{1}}_{r} \underbrace{\left[(A)_{r} \times x^{1}\right]_{k}} X^{2} \underbrace{\left[\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ P \\ (Y^{3} - Z^{3}) \end{array}\right]_{2-m}}_{n} H$$

$$(I-1)$$

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$$(R)_{\overline{q}} = Z^{1} + (A)_{\overline{r}} + (x^{1})_{s} \Big|_{k} = X^{2} + (Y^{2} + (Z^{2})_{m} + (Y^{3} + (Z^{3})_{2-m})_{2-m} + (Z^{1} + (Z^{2})_{m} + (Z^{1})_{q} +$$

wherein X^1 represents a hydroxyl group, a thiol group, an amino group, or a substituted amino group; X^2 represents a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an alkoxy group; and the Z^1 , Z^2 , R, Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , k, m, q, r and s have the same meanings as defined above.